

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the consideration given this case to date. Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's action, and respectfully assert that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Claims 1, 2, 36, and 39 have been amended, incorporating subject matter from the drawings and specification. Claims 42 and 43 have been added, incorporating subject matter from claims 1 and 36, respectively. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-17 and 36-43 are pending.

INTERVIEW

Applicant extends his gratitude for the personal interview granted on March 12, 2007. In fulfillment of the requirements of MPEP § 713.04, Applicant reports as follows:

(A) application number;

10/688,785

(B) name of applicants;

Lubart et al.

(C) name of examiner;

Wood, K.

(D) date of interview;

March 12, 2007

(E) type of interview (personal, telephonic, electronic mail or video conference);

Personal

(F) name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney, or agent, etc.);

Bryan Jaketic (applicant's attorney)

(G) an indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted;

none

(H) an identification of the claims discussed;

Claims 1, 36, and 39

(I) an identification of the specific prior art discussed;

U.S. Patent No. 6,766,076

(J) an indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). (Agreements as to allowability are tentative and do not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.);

Applicant proposed separate amendments related to: (1) the path of travel of light entering the collimating device, and (2) the size of the wave guide structures relative to the first substrate. The Examiner agreed that the proposed amendments would overcome the anticipation rejection based on the Nakama reference.

THE EXAMINER'S ACTION

In the Office Action dated September 26, 2006, the Office rejected claims 1-4, 7-8, 36, and 39-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,766,076 to *Nakama et al.* (hereafter "*Nakama*"); and

rejected claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nakama*.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

As discussed in the Examiner Interview, the Applicant has amended claim 1 so that it calls for a system in which light "travels *between* the plurality of wave guides *through* the first transparent substrate" (emphasis added). This amendment is supported by Figures 10 and 11, p. 16, line 28 through p. 17, line 6, and p. 18, lines 19-25.

The Examiner agreed that this amendment would distinguish the claim from *Nakama*. In the Office Action, the Office identified the optical fibers (4) of *Nakama* as wave guide structures. In each of the embodiments illustrated in Figures 2-6, light travels through the optical fibers (4) of *Nakama* rather than the substrate. Therefore, *Nakama* fails to teach a system in which light travels *between* the plurality of wave guides *through* the first transparent substrate. For at least this reason, the anticipation rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4, 7, and 8 should be withdrawn.

Applicant notes that limitations related to the bases of the wave guide structures and exit control structures have been removed from claim 1 and placed in a dependant claim. These limitations are not believed to affect the allowability of claim 1.

As discussed in the Examiner Interview, the Applicant has amended claim claims 36 to include the limitation that each wave guide structure is “substantially bounded by the first surface and the second surface” of the first substrate. This amendment is supported by Figures 10 and 11, p. 16, line 28 through p. 17, line 6, and p. 18, lines 19-25.

Similarly, as discussed in the Examiner Interview, the Applicant has amended claim claims 39 to include the limitation that each wave guide structure is “bounded by the first surface and the second surface” of the first substrate. This amendment is also supported by Figures 10 and 11, p. 16, line 28 through p. 17, line 6, and p. 18, lines 19-25.

The Examiner agreed that these amendments would distinguish the claim from *Nakama*. In the most recent Office Action, the Office identified the optical fibers (4) of *Nakama* as wave guide structures. In each of the embodiments illustrated in Figures 2-6, the optical fibers (4) of *Nakama* extend well beyond the substrate (3). Therefore, *Nakama* fails to teach wave guide structures that are substantially inside the first transparent substrate. For at least this reason, the anticipation rejection of claims 36 and 39, as well as dependent claim 40, should be withdrawn.

Applicant notes that limitations related to the bases of the wave guide structures and exit control structures have been removed from claim 36 and placed in a dependant claim. These limitations are not believed to affect the allowability of claim 36.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 5 and 6 depend from Claim 1. Because *Nakama* fails to teach each and every limitation of claim 1, as described above, this rejection should be withdrawn.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for recognizing the allowable subject matter of claims 7-17. Because claims 1-6 and 36-43 are allowable for at least the above stated reasons, Applicants believe claims 1-17 and 36-43 are in condition for allowance.


CONCLUSION

Applicant, intending to be completely responsive, believes that the remarks presented above resolve all outstanding issues on the above-referenced application. Accordingly, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Early notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's attention to this matter. If additional fees are due, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account **02-2051** designating Docket No. **29808-12**.

Respectfully submitted,

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